REMARKS

The foregoing amendments in claims 1 and 12 provide clearer antecedent bases for the "said postal server software" and "said premium services." The rejections of claims 1 and 12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are therefore considered overcome. Corresponding amendments are made in claims 2, 7, 9, 13 and 14 to provide a clear antecedent basis for "postal server software."

In response to the provisional double patenting rejection in view of claims 1-42 of the commonly owned application U.S. Serial No. 11/353,763 filed February 13, 2006, a CIP of the present invention, Applicant has filed herewith a terminal disclaimer, together with the requisite fee.

Features and Advantages of the Present Invention

The present invention provides a system and method that both uses and augments the internet for the delivery of electronic communications such as email messages and documents and attached files. The system in its most basic form uses multiple sender and receiver terminals, e.g., pc's or networks of terminals, a central postal server with postal server software operable on it, and links connecting these components to the internet. The postal server software is operable at least on the postal server (the software can be distributed) and is operable with software at the sender and recipient terminals.

The postal server and postal server software, also termed an electronic postal service, provide multiple premium services, as detailed in the specification and drawings, and below. As stated at page 17, line 14, the postal server and software offer a "set of premium email services" that "addresses for the Recipient the Internet mail problems and opportunities of general security, legitimate overload, priority management, encryption, tracking, ease of use, and nuisance email." Or as stated at page 6, lines 1-2 and page 9, lines 29-31, the present invention provides a complete solution to the many problems and limitations of conventional email services.

The postal server and the postal server software are not part of the conventional internet. These services are selectable by a sender to augment the way an electronic message or document is transmitted, received, managed and stored. The system is not network dependent. The invention does not compose or format the message or document, or provide options for their composition or format.

The augmentation provided by the invention does provide an elegant and comprehensive solution to many problems now plaguing email. The present internet email system does not deal effectively with large volumes of unwanted nuisance email which can overload and obscure valued, legitimate email. In addition, as described in the Background of the Invention, beginning at page 3, line 11 of the specification, a corollary problem to email overload is the lack of email security. The existence of this need for security has been widely reported on. Problems that occur include: 1) the intentional and unintentional sending of viruses and worms (because there is no way to track the senders), 2) pretending to be someone else as an email sender ("spoofing", lack of authentication of the sending computer, and lack of certification of the actual sender), 3) stealing personal information so as to impersonate someone else ("phishing," identity theft), 4) reading confidential information sent by email ("sniffing", "hijacking", and lack of privacy), and 5) changing information sent by email (lack of verification of content).

Both email overload and lack of security with the current internet for email communications have long been constraints on the use of legitimate email, especially for commercial purposes, and have caused a corresponding decline in the productivity of email as a means of commercial communication. These concerns can be can be categorized into four major problem areas: the lack of email Differentiation, Security, Privacy, and Productivity.

These four problems are known threats of substantial risk and cost to commercial email - as proven by the actions of national governments and commercial organizations (in industries such as health care, banking, investment, legal, accounting, and credit cards) to differentiate, secure, and encrypt (for privacy purposes) any

Internet emails containing health, financial, legal, employee, customer, and other confidential information.

While there are some known services (see, e.g., the Background section of the present specification) that provide some of these benefits to some users of email communications, these services present considerable barriers and inefficiencies to most people and businesses to use. The reasons are that, in order to install and use these services, users find these services are very costly, and/or are very complex to implement requiring very high levels of technical expertise and information technology support, and/or are implemented in a highly-specific point-to-point method so as to make them burdensome to be generally-available. Therefore for the most part those services are only available to large business enterprises, and even then they provide only partial solutions to only some of the problems, e.g., encryption or proof of receipt. Most also require users to leave their email applications and instead use their web browsers for sending and receiving email. But web browsers are not as effective and productive in working with other business software applications as are email applications.

The present invention therefore solves all of these technical problems of current email communication systems (Differentiation, Security, Privacy, and Productivity) in an effective, easy, inexpensive, and widely-available way, and with a method that works fully with a user's email application.

The present invention therefore provides the restricted-access, security, and privacy capabilities of a major corporate network, without the associated major expense and required technical resources, while at the same time having the generally available, accessible-on-demand, easy-to-use, and inexpensive qualities of a public telecommunications utility.

Using the system and services of this invention which work with a sender's regular email setup, a sender can communicate by email across the Internet around the world, easily and inexpensively, without technical expertise, and with the same or greater differentiation, security, and privacy as if the sender and all his recipients are in

the same corporate network. In addition, with this invention, neither the sender nor the recipient need to be in a network. It is available to anyone with ordinary internet access.

These advantages are provided by the system and method as defined with the pending claims.

The Powers Reference

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,115 ("Powers").

Powers' Summary of the Invention and Powers' Detailed Description clearly describe the Powers system and method as ones that create messages to be sent. The Summary of Invention section (at Column 3 line 52) says:

> The present invention provides a process for generating completed mail objects from email or text messages from a registered sender to be received by recipients in hard copy and comprising graphical correspondence content (e.g., business letterhead, personal letterhead, card graphics, photo postcard graphics, etc.) and graphical representation of a signature.

It continues on from Column 3 line 59 to Column 4 line 21 giving basics steps in how this happens:

1) The Powers service system receives a request from a registered sender that the service provider generate a completed mail correspondence object to be received by recipients. The registered sender provides the text to the message, and the recipients' names or identifiers.

2) The service system locates the registered sender's information in a database which contains various correspondence generation preferences which the sender has already entered into the database.

3) The service system locates the complete address information for the recipients.

4) The service system generates a completed correspondence for the recipient to receive by one or more delivery means selected by the registered sender's instructions or preferences for the recipients from the sender's database information. The transmission methods could be fax, email, email with link to an Internet address containing the message, or physical delivery of a printed hard copy.

While Powers creates correspondence for delivery by some mode, it does not create or change the fax, email, or physical delivery process of the selected mode. Given the sender's preferred or specified delivery means, Powers only creates some customizing of the correspondence's details so that the correspondence will accommodate as much as possible the special technical aspects of the means of delivery. For example, if the delivery means is physical, the correspondence is created to be printed out with various changes to the way the correspondence might look, which could be different if it was to be sent by fax.

The registered sender can sign up as a customer and store all the sender preference information in a database, which is done preferably by the sender entering the preference data using his web browser to get to the service system's website. This database preference process is explained in the Detailed Description of the Invention, more specifically in the Composition Module Specification section, Column 7 lines 5 through 46.

The generation of the correspondence is explained in The Composition Module section, Column 7, line 47 through Column 14, line 14. For example, this section includes the correspondence generation actions taken to accommodate the preferred delivery means, as mentioned above.

In sharp contrast to Powers, the invention claimed herein does not create a message, or even format a message to suit a selected mode of communication. The present invention is directed to internet communications and a sender selected augmentation of the delivery process of an already created message. Powers, on the other hand, does not teach the present invention's postal server and postal server software that can be selected to modify and improve the delivery process. Nor does

Powers teach the present invention's claimed multiple premium services which are all improvements in the process by which an electronic message or document is delivered, not the content or format of the message or document.

Powers does use the words "email" and "security," but the mere use of these terms does not mean that Powers teaches the claimed invention.

For example, "email" in Powers is used in one of three ways, a), b) or c), described below. In usage a) "email" is used to characterize one of the modes of delivering a generated correspondence to recipients, as is fax, and physical delivery. As noted above, Powers customizes the correspondence message depending on the delivery mode's possibilities.

Powers "email" usage b) describes one of the ways of sending to the registered sender a "proof" copy of the generated correspondence for approval by the registered sender before the correspondence is sent to the recipients (Column 14 line 34). It is referred to as a security measure (in the Abstract, it's called "preventing 'forgery'") because if the registered sender replies to the email from the Powers service system and approves the proof, this is considered evidence that someone else is not trying to pretend to be the registered sender. The reasoning is that only the real registered sender has access to the password which his email application uses to download his email (including the proof copy) from his email ISP.

Powers "email" usage c) relates to one of several communication methods by which the registered sender initiates a request to the Powers service system for a correspondence message to be generated. As a related security measure, there is a user preference in the database, an indication by the registered sender that he or she wants to use digital signature and/or encryption in sending and receiving emails with the service system. If that preference is selected, then the system will not accept requests by email to generate correspondence unless the email is properly digitally signed or encrypted. Therefore, it is the preference setting itself that is the security measure in Powers.

"Security" as used in Powers is of the type described above in connection with "email" usages b) and c). "Security" is also mentioned in Powers (Column 15 lines 10 to 60) as the security measures taken to protect the registered senders' data in the website databases. The described security measures are only standard, publicly available choices that one has for protecting website databases. "The inventive process is preferably configured with firewall and standard security mechanisms." (Column 15 lines 17 and 18).

Powers does not teach the present invention; it teaches away, to a different solution of a different problem (message formatting consonant with the mode of delivery), a solution that may use email, but conventional email used in the conventional way, with no postal server and no postal server software operating on it. Powers does not solve the many problems noted above and in the specification which are solved by the present invention providing its multiple premium services.

Applicant is submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the above amendment, the terminal disclaimer, and foregoing Remarks, Applicant urges that the pending claims define patentable differences over the art of record, and that this application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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